

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 25, 2014

Dr. Richard Vierling  
Director of Research  
National Corn Growers Association  
632 Cepi Drive  
Chesterfield, MO 63005-1221

Dear Dr. Vierling,

It has come to our attention that the National Corn Growers Association is seeking site selection bids for the newly formed National Agricultural Genomics Center. Agricultural research is vital to our nation's food security and we have many challenges ahead in providing research funding given our federal budget situation.

That is why we are encouraged by the North Dakota Corn Growers Association bid package to host the National Agricultural Genomics Center at the USDA-ARS Research facility in Fargo, ND on the North Dakota State University campus. This is a very effective way of utilizing existing research infrastructure and an opportunity for collaboration with existing research scientists. Good things come out of collaboration and the ability of your new research facility to collaborate with the regional USDA wheat genomicist is a win-win for us all. We think this collaboration can serve as a model for future federal agricultural research.

We and our staff members have found the research stakeholder meetings that the USDA-ARS conducts to be extremely helpful in understanding the research needs of producers. This process provides producer's significant input in the type of research they want and will use. Based on our experience with USDA-ARS's ability to gather producer input, the work your facility is embarking on would be well grounded at the Fargo USDA-ARS.

North Dakota has the most diverse crop mix of any state in the nation with 42 crops as well as diverse livestock and apiary industries. North Dakota State University is also home to 14 public crop breeding programs and hosts a new BIO Level Security 3 greenhouse that was the vision of farmers and legislative leaders in our region. This diversity would be a great benefit to your new center.

We strongly support the proposed collaboration between the USDA-ARS and the National Agricultural Genomics Center. This collaboration will serve you well in the development and operation of your new center.

Congratulations on successfully launching the National Agricultural Genomics Center and our best wishes for your future success.



JOHN HOEVEN  
U.S. Senator

Sincerely,



HEIDI HEITKAMP  
U.S. Senator



KEVIN CRAMER  
U.S. Congressman